

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and 9-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled and Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 12, 15 and 16 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hirose; Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hirose; and Claims 2-7 and 9-20 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

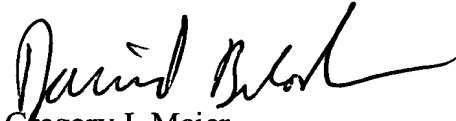
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form (and accordingly Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled). Further, Claim 16 has been amended to depend on Claim 3, rather than on Claim 1.

In addition, the reference numeral "12" has been added to the input buffer in Figure 1 to correspond with the description in the specification. A separate letter requesting approval of this drawing change is being submitted to the draftsman.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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